

Dorothy Varellas
CA

Title of the Hearing: SOCIAL SECURITY AT 75 YEARS

I am writing to urge Congress to take immediate action to pass the Social Security Fairness Act (**HR 235/S, 484**) **which would repeal the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision.**

Because of these two acts, I find that after working for the last 28 years in education, I cannot afford to retire. These two acts are denying me my full Social Security.

As a young woman I worked in the private sector for over 15 years. After my children entered school I went to work for the local school district. Never was I told that by doing so I would later be denied my full Social Security benefits, as well as any spousal benefits I might be entitled to. This is a cruel and unfair action taken by my government. Public employees should never be penalized for working for the common good of American citizens! Most public employees do not make big salaries. We do what we do because we believe in working for the common good.

The GPO and the WEP discourage talented people from entering public service. Had I known about these acts I would not have become a public employee.

Furthermore, I believe these acts are discriminatory because they single out public employees in only 15 states. Why should we be denied what public employees in those other 35 states are entitled to?

I urge Congress to move the Social Security Fairness Act forward for a vote. I urge inclusion of the repeal of the GPO and WEP as part of any reform package. Public employees cannot wait any longer. I cannot wait any longer. I am 66 years old and I would like to retire with the benefits my government promised me.

Sincerely,

Dorothy J. Varellas

